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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

25X1A 86824

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

DATE:

25X1C

SUBJECT Living Conditions in Moscow

INFO.

DIST. 25 June 1977

PAGES 2

ORIGIN

25X1A

SUPPLEMENT

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1. The average worker's salary in Moscow is 600 rubles a month, of which 10% is taken for income tax. In addition, there is a cultural tax of 20 rubles, and a special tax of about 20 rubles is imposed on bachelors and childless households. Other demands, such as forced contributions to cover government loans, are made on the workers' salaries from time to time.
2. Factory workers are paid in an irregular fashion. Sometimes they receive 150-200 rubles with the promise that the rest will be paid the following month. At times they receive no salary for two months. Factory directors can take advantage of the workers in this respect because no worker can leave the factory before his contract expires or without obtaining special authorization.
3. Party dignitaries, important functionaries, and professors receive, in addition to their food ration card, vouchers of 300-500 rubles permitting them to procure food at special stores at the prices of rationed goods. Rations for the average worker include 550 grams of bread per day and 2 kgs. of meat, 800 gr. of fat, and 800 gr. of sugar per month. Actually, they do not always receive these items. For instance, the worker may receive for his monthly fat ration 200 gr. of butter and the rest in margarine, sunflower oil, or even salted herring. Likewise, for his meat ration he may receive smoked or salted fish or inferior sausage. Vegetables and potatoes are hard to obtain.
4. The following prices, in rubles are current in Moscow:

	<u>Ration</u> <u>Prices</u>	<u>Commercial</u> <u>Stores</u>	<u>Black</u> <u>Market</u>
Eggs (10)			100.00
Bread (black) kg.	3.40	8.00	40.00
Bread (white) kg.	4.60	16.00	
Meat kg.	30.00	60-65.00	130.00
Butter kg.	62.00		200.00
Potatoes kg.			20.00
Carrots kg.			12.00
Cabbage kg.			20.00
Sausage kg.		150-375.00	150-375.00
Flour kg.			30.00
Milk liter	5.00		20.00

CLASSIFICATION

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Document No.

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DDA Memo: Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG-7/1983

Date: 21 Apr 78 Approved For Release 2001/03/05 : CIA-RDP82-00457R000700060005-7

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5. Bread is much less expensive in the commercial stores than on the black market; but, since there are only a few such stores in the city of Moscow and since one must wait in line for hours, the worker is practically forced to procure bread on the black market.
6. Workers have their breakfast in canteens at the factory for 3.50 rubles. Breakfast consists of a thin cabbage soup, a little salted fish, and a few potatoes. Workers must bring their own bread. Stakhanovists, udarniks, and workers who have completed the minimum quota of work are not obliged to surrender meat or fat coupons for meals at the factory.
7. Certain factories provide housing facilities for the workers. However, most workers prefer to be lodged in separate apartments, where they do not live in fear of being put out on the street from one day to the next. The average rent for a worker earning 600 rubles per month is 32 rubles per month. Electricity and gas in a household of three adults amounts to about 29 rubles per month.
8. Prices of clothing are practically prohibitive for the worker. Even second-hand clothes on the black market are very expensive. On rare occasions the worker receives special coupons with which he can purchase a suit at special stores. However, the workers with whom source spoke reported that the quality of the material of these suits was so poor that they were not worth buying.

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